

You Shall Call His Name Jesus – Part 3

- An angel announces the birth of the Savior to the shepherds | Luke 2:8-14
 - After the birth of Jesus, we see that again an angel of the Lord has made an appearance, and this time to shepherds. The angel tells them of the good news of the birth of the promised Messiah.
 - **Read Luke 2:8-14**
 - The angel of the Lord tells the good news to the shepherds
 - **God chose shepherds instead of kings**
 - If we use human reasoning, we find it interesting that the angel first reported the news of the birth of Jesus to lowly shepherds.
 - That the angels didn't go to the king of the land, priests or scribes.
Instead God went to those who had the lowliest of status, the shepherds.
 - **The shepherds were not highly looked upon as they were always “unclean” because of their job.**
 - But Scripture tells us that God calls the poor and lowly.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:26-29
 - “for consider your calling brothers; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, **so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.**”
 - **What does this tell us about the importance of humility to God?**
 - **The “good news” is that the Savior, the Christ, the promised Messiah has been born.**
 - The good news is the announcement that the Savior of the world is here.
 - Jesus is the Savior of the world.
 - Jesus is referred to as “Savior” in several places in the New Testament
 - John 4:42.
 - “...for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”
 - Acts 5:31
 - “God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”
 - To save the world from their sins is why He is the Savior
 - Matthew 1:21
 - “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”
 - “Good News” is also another way to label or describe the Gospel.
 - **What does Christ’s purpose as being our “Savior” mean to you?**
 - **The good news is that Jesus is the Christ, the promised Messiah.**
 - **Jesus is the human** name given to Him by God through the angel Gabriel.
 - **Christ and Messiah is His title** which means “anointed one” and He was sent from God.

- **So his last name isn't "Christ", but He is Jesus THE Christ or THE Messiah..**
 - John 20:31
 - "But these are written so that you may believe that **Jesus is the Christ**, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."
 - Matthew 1:16b
 - "...of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ"
- **The meaning of the Word Messiah is "anointed one" which is what is referenced in the Old Testament.**
 - Isaiah 61:1a
 - "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has **anointed me** to bring good news to the poor..."
 - **The word the Jews used to refer to the promised "anointed one" was Messiah (Mashiyach – transliteration or substitution of English letters).**
- **In the New Testament, the Greek equivalent to "Mashiyach" is "Christos" which is where we get Christ.**
 - John 4:25-26
 - "The woman said to him, I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things. Jesus said to her, I who speak to you am he."
 - Matthew 16:16
 - "Simon Peter replied, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- Therefore, Messiah and Christ can be used interchangeably.
- Jesus is also Lord.
 - Lord is used to translate the covenant name of God (YHWH – Yahweh)
 - Romans 10:9
 - "because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
- **They witnessed a multitude of angels praising God.**
 - Then when they thought that what they had seen was great I'm sure it was nothing in comparison to when they saw a multitude of angels praising God!
 - This multitude or "host" was likely so great that the human mind would not have been able to comprehend.
 - Luke 2:13-14
 - "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"
 - **This is similar to the hosts that we see in Revelation as well.**
 - Revelation 19:1
 - "After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,"

- **What do you think it would be like to experience this multitude of heavenly hosts praising God?**
- **The angels announced that Jesus would bring peace to the world.**
 - **This peace is not universal world peace, but peace that we have through justification with Christ.**
 - Luke 2:14 (NKJV)
 - “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”
 - Romans 5:1
 - “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”
- **The shepherds travel to Bethlehem to see the Jesus**
 - Directly after this the shepherds travel to see for themselves the Messiah.
 - **Luke 2:15-20**
 - **The shepherds were the first witnesses to tell others the Gospel (Good News) about Christ**
 - After the shepherds had seen baby Jesus, they reported the message that they had been told of by the angel and were the first witnesses for Christ.
 - Everyone they told were amazed at the good news that was given regarding the birth of the promised Messiah.
- Mary pondered these things in her heart.
 - After the shepherds came and told Mary and anyone else, they could of what was made known to them, we see that Mary treasured up all that she had heard and pondered them in her heart.
 - We are not told what specifically she is pondering, but it certainly has to do with the future plans regarding her baby boy Jesus.
 - **What do you think about what Mary was pondering?**
- **The wise men and Herod | Matthew 2:1-8**
 - To read the story of when the wise men came to meet Jesus we need to turn to the book of Matthew.
 - ***Read Matthew 2:1-8***
 - **Who were the wise men or Magi?**
 - We don’t know much about them, but we know that they were not kings but scholars who studied the stars.
 - They would have been considered astrologers, priests or court advisors.
 - They also were considered to be magicians.
 - They had knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - They were wealthy
 - They came from the East perhaps from Mesopotamia within Persia.
 - These were well-respected men.
 - How many wise men were there?
 - We don’t really know. Three is assumed because of the number of gifts but there could have been many more than that.
 - A star guided the wise men to Jerusalem.
 - **This star that they were guided by was not likely a constellation, but something supernatural provided by God.**
 - The star moved as in verse 9 it says it went before them, reminiscence of how God lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

- There is lots of speculation as to what it was exactly, but regardless it was something ordained by God for this purpose.
 - **The star was something “new” and the wise men would have noticed it.**
 - Since some of the wise men were astrologers, they would have kept their eyes on the sky and would have seen whatever it was that God had shown them.
 - **King Herod confronts the wise men**
 - King Herod ruled from 37-4 B.C. and he was a ruthless murdering ruler full of selfish pride.
 - He would not even spare his wife and family if he thought they would rise against him.
 - The wise men being directed by God came to the city and caused quite a stir with their seeking of this new “king”.
 - They were making quite the scene in the city for all of Jerusalem and Herod to become troubled.
 - **Herod assembled his chief priests and scribes to see what the Scripture said of the Christ.**
 - The Scribes knew exactly where the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. This was very much understood.
 - Herod was concerned by the coming of the Messiah.
 - **I find this interesting in the fact that it wasn’t that Herod didn’t believe the prophecy, but it was the fact that he did believe it.**
 - He believed that it was true, and he was concerned for his own well-being, thinking Jesus was coming to overthrow him.
 - **Herod tried to deceive the wise men into telling him where Jesus was located.**
 - Herod guided by Satan sought to find the location of Jesus so that he could kill him.
 - But God intervened and made sure this did not happen.
 - God warned the wise men of Herod’s (and Satan’s plot) and the wise men did not return.
- The wise men bring gifts to Jesus | Matthew 2:9-12
 - **Read Matthew 2:9-12**
 - The wise men visit Jesus a year or more after His birth.
 - Perhaps the most misunderstood truth about the events surrounding the birth of Jesus is where and when the wise men visited Jesus.
 - The common “nativity scene” depicts 3 wise men visiting Jesus in the manger. However, this is not what Scripture tells us.
 - **The wise men very clearly visit Jesus in a house, not while he was in the manger. Jesus and His family had moved into a home in Bethlehem.**
 - Matthew 2:11a
 - “And going into the house they saw the child...”
 - Jesus could have been up to 2 years of age as provided in verse 16.
 - Matthew 2:16
 - “Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.
 - **The wise men gave gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh.**
 - They knew that Jesus was a king and therefore they brought gifts suitable for a king.

- These wise men didn't know it, but they were fulfilling OT prophecy when they brought their gifts to Jesus.
 - Isaiah 60:6
 - "A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord."
 - We can also see additional relationships and meaning of the gifts (there are many).
 - Gold – Tribute to a king, the most worthy gift.
 - Frankincense – Used to honor God with the smoke of incense. This would have been very pure and valuable.
 - Myrrh – Used in embalming which would signify his death.
- Prophecies were again fulfilled as Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt to escape Herod and returned to Nazareth. | Matthew 2:16-18
 - The prophecies of Jesus even at this point are still being fulfilled.
 - While Herod was slaughtering the innocent attempting to kill Jesus Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt.
 - Matthew 2:16-18
 - Matthew 2:23
- Jesus grew up and was filled with wisdom and God's grace - Luke 2:39